

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 ACDA-12 MCE-00
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R 182105Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 111
INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 1878

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, PDIP, HO, UK, GT, BH
SUBJ: BRITISH EMBASSY TO RE-OPEN IN HONDURAS

REF: (A) TEGUCIGALPA 1872, (B) BARTCH-HAMYLTON JONES MEMCON
NOVEMBER 30, 1977

1. GOH ANNOUNCED IT HAS GRANTED AGREEMENT FOR JOHN B. WEYNES
AS NEW BRITISH AMBASSADOR ACCREDITED TO HONDURAS AND THAT BRITISH
EMBASSY WILL RE-OPEN IN TEGUCIGALPA, (PERHAPS AS EARLY AS MAY).
WEYMES WILL REPLACE HAMYLTON JONES WHO APPARENTLY WILL CONTINUE
RESIDENT IN COSTA RICA AND ACCREDITED TO NICARAGUA ALSO.

2. COMMENT: RE-OPENING OF BRITISH EMBASSY, CLOSED SEVERAL YEARS
AGO, CAN ONLY PLEASE HONDURANS. EMBOFF RECALLS THAT WEYMES,
IF SAME PERSON, WAS UK CONSUL IN GUATEMALA DURING EARLY 70'S.
NOMINATION OF DIPLOMAT EXPERIENCED IN THIS AREA HIGHLIGHTS
BRITISH POLITICAL GOALS IN RE-ESTABLISHING THIS EMBASSY ALTHOUGH
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CONSULAR, AID AND COMMERCIAL INTERESTS ARE ALSO RELEVANT.

3. HONDURAS SUPPORTS GUATEMALA'S CLAIM TO BELIZE VERBALLY, BUT
IS ALWAYS CAREFUL TO QUALIFY THIS WITH EXPRESSIONS URGING
A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION THAT TAKES THE WISHES OF BELIZEANS INTO
ACCOUNT. REFLECTING PUBLIC OPINION, ALL FIVE NEWSPAPERS HERE HAVE
EDITORIALIZED AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER EITHER IN FAVOR OF BELIZEAN

INDEPENDENCE OR FOR HONDURAN NON-INTERVENTION. THIS, IN FACT,
ALSO REPRESENTS THE GOH'S PRIVATE POSITION.

4. WHILE THE SALE OF BRITISH SCORPION TANKS TO HONDURAN RECENTLY
ANNOUNCED (REF A) MAY HAVE BEEN IN THE MILL FOR SOME TIME,
ITS COINCIDENCE WITH THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EMBASSY WILL
BE SEEN FAVORABLY BY THE GOH AND PUBLIC. THE CONTRAST BETWEEN
BRITAIN'S ARMS SALES HERE AND ITS REFUSAL TO SELL ARMORED CARS
TO EL SALVADOR ON HUMAN RIGHTS GROUNDS WILL ALSO BE NOTED AS
ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF BENEFITS PRODUCED BY GOOD HUMAN RIGHTS PER-
FORMANCE. END COMMENT.

BARTCH

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